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*Arrival of U. S. S. Buffalo and the torpedo flotilla.*

The U. S. S. *Buffalo*, with the first torpedo flotilla, consisting of five torpedo-boat destroyers, arrived in Bombay on the evening of March 15, from Aden, en route to Manila. There had been no illness during the voyage from Aden. On account of the prevalence of plague in the city I advised Surgeon Curtis, of the *Buffalo*, to ask the captain not to allow the crews ashore. An order to this effect was issued at once. Officers were to be allowed ashore when off duty, but not after 10 p. m. A number of the officers called each day at the consulate until March 18, when the consul's daughter was found to have plague.

No further communication was maintained with the consulate, and all communication with the shore was reduced to a minimum. There was no ground for believing that any of the officers had been really exposed to plague. The fleet sailed for Colombo on March 23. No supplemental bill of health was requested, and in accordance with instructions in Department letter dated February 9, 1904, none was therefore given. All supplies were obtained from wholesome sources, and all possibility of infection of the ship avoided.

*Reports from Calcutta—Inspection of vessel—Plague and cholera.*

Passed Assistant Surgeon Sprague reports, March 24 and 31, as follows:

During the week ended March 26, 1904, bill of health was issued to steamship *Swazi* bound for Boston with a total crew of 60, of which 49 were Lascars, whose effects were disinfected. Before the latter were finally passed 58 were examined, 9 of whom were rejected for fever, venereal and skin diseases. The steamship *Florida* cleared for New York with a total crew of 44, all Europeans. The cargo compartments of both ships were fumigated when empty, and rat guards were maintained on the wharf lines while they lay at dock.

During the week ended March 12, 1904, there were 41,960 cases and 33,517 deaths from plague in India. In the Presidency of Bengal for the same period there were 5,077 cases and 4,616 deaths.

In Calcutta the plague cases and deaths are gradually increasing, there having been 325 cases with 295 deaths during the week ended March 19, 1904. All except five wards are infected. There were no cases in connection with shipping.

Cholera is also slightly on the increase, although the present weekly death rate is much below the average for the past five years. There was one case in the port, but none in direct connection with shipping.

*Plague and cholera.*

During the week ended March 5, 1904, there were 37,243 cases of plague and 28,919 deaths in India, and for the week ended March 19, 49,848 cases with 40,526 deaths. This sudden increase arises from an outbreak of unusual severity in the interior in the United Provinces and Punjab. For the week ended March 19 there were 5,337 cases reported, with 5,092 deaths, in Bengal.

In Calcutta there was a decided increase over the previous week, 541 cases with 471 deaths. The total death rate was raised to 57.8 per 1,000, and all the wards, except three, showed signs of infection.

The death rate from cholera seems to have about reached its maximum, there having been an increase of only 3 last week, making a total of 61. There was 1 death in the port, a fireman aboard a ship bound for South Africa.

# MEXICO.

## *Report from Progreso and Merida—Yellow fever at Merida.*

Acting Assistant Surgeon Harrison reports, April 16, as follows:

Week ended April 15, 1904.

Present officially estimated population, 8,000.

Number of deaths, 4.

No deaths from contagious diseases.

General sanitary condition of this port and the surrounding country during the week, good.

In Merida, during the past two weeks, there have been 2 cases of yellow fever and 1 death.

Bills of health were issued to the following vessels:

| Date.  | Vessel.          | Destination.        | Number of crew. | Number of passengers from this port. | Number of passengers in transit. | Pieces of baggage disinfected. |
|--------|------------------|---------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Apr. 9 | Alma .....       | Mobile .....        | 24              | 3                                    |                                  |                                |
| 10     | Vigilancia ..... | New York .....      | 79              | 44                                   | 39                               |                                |
| 12     | Magician .....   | New Orleans .....   | 64              |                                      |                                  |                                |
| 12     | Ithaca .....     | Colon, Panama ..... | 49              |                                      |                                  |                                |

<sup>a</sup>The steamship carrying medical officer of quarantine board of Mobile Bay is subjected to SO<sub>2</sub> fumigation, by that officer, after clearing from Progreso.

## *Smallpox in Torreon.*

MEXICO, April 15, 1904.

DEAR DOCTOR: As on page 504 of the "Public Health Reports" of the 18th of March last, reference is made in very exaggerated terms to the epidemic of smallpox that has developed in Torreon (Coahuila), I consider it my duty to confirm my advices of the 30th of that month, in which I reported the appearance of the epidemic, and at the same time communicate to you the following data for yesterday, which are as follows:

|                                               |    |
|-----------------------------------------------|----|
| Cases brought over from previous report ..... | 98 |
| New cases .....                               | 0  |
| Total .....                                   | 98 |
| Deaths .....                                  | 2  |
| Remaining .....                               | 96 |
| Vaccinated .....                              | 80 |

I will forward to you every week an official report showing the progress of the epidemic, and repeating the assurances of my most distinguished consideration. I remain,

Yours respectfully,

E. LICEAGA.  
*President Superior Board of Health of Mexico.*

Dr. WALTER WYMAN,

*President of Committee American Republics, Washington.*